

11/7/66

Dear Bill, This is my letter-writing day. The enclosed reply to Hal Verb explains what is not afoot. I had hoped this would have been in September, as he and I first spoke about it during the summer. There are a number of good reasons for this to be on one trip if possible. It will reduce costs. Even though both you people and they have said you'd pay my expenses, I think this will cut almost half off for each of you. And it will save my time. I do not want to be away any longer than I must; yet while I am away I will want to do what I can. I've really been looking forward to this for some time. I think the timing is good.

I have never met Hal Verb. From his letters he seems like a very nice guy. If anything develops as a consequence of the checks tomorrow, I'll let you both know right away. I am hoping it is just nerves, but I suppose there are other, less pleasant possibilities. One thing I should have included in the letter to Verb: there is no conflict between Penn and me because we are on entirely different aspects of the same subject, and if he and I were together I think that would be fine. Also, now is, as events are showing, the time for his stuff. If he is with you when you get this get him to get in touch and to send a bunch of his books ~~xx~~ to my agent. His secretary sent me a clipping from the ~~XXXX~~ London Evening Standard. Apparently Jeremy Campbell, who Penn may recall I mentioned to Marc Stone, did a story, and it is sympathetic.

I did get the copies of the first article off to my agent and I did get a Thermofax copy made in Frederick when I went in to mail things early this a.m. So, if my phone call to Washington today does any good, I'll have someone who will type the second piece and as soon as I hear that I do not have immediate need for the copies I'll send them to you. This is both the transfer of junk to the archive and the pix-Xrays. With the book contracted for in Italy, having been serialized in Spain and Germany and a couple of other things pending, I do not know what I'll need until I hear from him. I think I tear the whole thing apart and that it is not pretty naked.

One other thing: housing will present no problems. I can sleep anywhere, the harder the bed - as you should know - the better. Too soft a bed is ruinous with my bad back. By the way, you travel. I'll be looking in the trading-stamp catalogues but I need advice. I used to have, years ago, a flexible travelling bag that had two handles, folded in half when I was travelling, could be hung up by a single handle when I was settled (and could work right from it, without unpacking) and had room for more than suits. I gave it away years ago. Have you any recommendation on what is desirable, what brands are good, what features, etc. I have a simple suitcase. What I think I should now want is some such gadget and one that will hold much. I've only got one winter suit, I think, but I've got several odd coats and slacks. Or will I need a summer suit in LA in November-December? Just thought of the stamps. But I'd like a recommendation from someone with experience. Perhaps I'll be doing more of this and then I'll be equipped.

Now I wish I'd had facilities to get slides made, and time. But perhaps there will be another time, another trip, and I'll have some of the new documents copied.

How much time should we allow for LA? I leave it pretty much up to you people. You know what can be arranged. If there is anything I can do I want to do it.

Sincerely

*copy of this to Verb*